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ABSTRACT

This booklet discusses a homograph that is seemingly never taught in schools--the homograph "have." The booklet begins with a discussion of three definitions of "have" and notes the distinctly different pronunciations ("hav," "uv," and "haff") of each form. The booklet then discusses why each form should be pronounced differently, and presents the story of "Papa Have," "Mama Have," and "Baby Have" to further illustrate the differences. The booklet concludes with sample dictation exercises on the three "haves." (RS)

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The Three Different Words Spelled H-A-V-E

by

Don McCabe

AVKO "Great idea"
Reprint Series #624

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Don McCabe

AVKO Great Idea Reprint Series #624

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AVKO was founded in 1974.

AVKO is subsidized by donations and grants.

AVKO is open to membership to anyone interested in helping others learn to read and write.

AVKO is run by members from as far away as Hawaii and Quebec.

AVKO's daily operations are handled by volunteers.

AVKO plans to build and operate a model reading research center in a YEAR-AROUND **camp** setting that would economically and efficiently service the needs of dyslexics of all ages.

AVKO hopes to spread the concept that parent and spouse tutoring in spelling/reading skills can be successfully taught in adult community education classes and that members of a problem reader's support group can greatly assist the efforts of any volunteer tutor working in the literacy movement.

AVKO provides newsletters and economical opportunities to pursue individual research projects and to take part in large scale cooperative research projects that have immediate practical applications.

AVKO is attempting to accomplish these goals primarily through the profits generated by the inservices, workshops and the sale of materials developed for the special needs of students, parents, and adults -- but AVKO still needs donations to survive.

The Three Different Words Spelled

h-a-v-e

Traditionally, students are taught that sometimes different words share the same spelling even though they are pronounced differently and have different meanings. Sometimes we even teach the jargon associated with this phenomenon: *homographs*. I believe most students are taught that this phenomenon exists and can cite some of the examples traditionally taught such as *lead* as in "to lead a parade" and *lead* as in "Alchemists tried to change lead into gold." But, perhaps the most frequently occurring homograph seemingly is never taught in our schools. This is the homograph -- *have*.

1. have: verb, transitive. (hav) Means to possess as in: I **have** a pencil. Do you **have** the time? Do you **have** any questions?

2. have: verb, auxiliary used with modals *should*, *would*, *could*, and *might*. ("uv" or "uh"; rarely "hav") This linguistic phenomenon is the direct cause of the very common misspellings of *have* as *of* in phrases such as I should "of", would "of", could "of", or might "of" known.

3. have: verb, half of two word auxiliary phrase used to express obligation or necessity as in "We have to go now." What is not mentioned in the dictionary is that this form of the word *have*, unlike form #1 is rarely pronounced /hav/ by native speakers. Instead, in normal (albeit sloppy) speech, this form is usually pronounced as if it were the word half ("haf"). This linguistic phenomenon is the direct cause of the common misspelling by students of the phrase *have to* as *hafta* as in, "We hafta ask our parents for everything."

If you play the substitution game of pronouncing all h-a-v-e words the same, either as #1 "hav" or #2 "uv" or #3 "haf" that differences between the three basic words become dramatically apparent.

Exercise #1. Pronounce all **have**'s very, very distinctly as "hav."

We *have* many ways of making up excuses for not doing what we should *have* done yesterday and almost as many ways of making up reasons why we *have* to put off doing those things until tomorrow.

That sounded a bit stuffy, didn't it?

Exercise #2. Pronounce all **have**'s very sloppily as "uh" To help you do this, we have altered the spelling of *have* to "*of*".

We "*of*" many ways of making up excuses for not doing what we should "*of*" done yesterday and almost as many ways of making up reasons why we "*of*" to put off doing those things until tomorrow.

Only the "should of" sounds at all like English, right?

Exercise #1. Pronounce all **have**'s very, very distinctly as "haff." To help you do this, we have altered the spelling of *have* to "*haff*"

We "*haff*" many ways of making up excuses for not doing what we should "*haff*" done yesterday and almost as many ways of making up reasons why we "*haff*" to put off doing those things until tomorrow.

Only the last *have*, the "hafta" sounds right. Hmmm.

The Three Haves

Almost a story, but you
should have ("of") known
I would have to ("hafta")
have ("hav") one.

Once upon a time there were three HAVES.

PAPA HAVE who phonetically could spell his name "HAV",
MAMA HAVE who could spell her name "of" and
BABY HALF-PINT HAVE who could spell his name "HAFF."

PAPA HAVE was always asking questions. Do you **have** supper ready? What are we going to **have** for supper? **Have** you ever been ready on time?

MAMA "OF" was always complaining. You should "of" picked up your clothes. You should "of" asked me first. You could "of" been ready, if you would "of" followed my directions.

BABY "HAFF" was always asking questions like his father and complaining like his mother. Do I "haff" to go to bed now? Why do I "haff" to wear galoshes? None of the other kids "haff" to.

NOTE: The correct spelling for all three HAVE words is, believe it or not, *have*.

There are some teachers and educators who believe that all the HAVE words "hav" to be pronounced exactly the same. I personally think it is easier to get students to correctly spell the HAVE's as *have* than to change their speech patterns.

Sample Dictation Exercises on the three haves

Have students create sample sentences that resemble a cartoonist's effort to write dialogue. Then have them rewrite the best sentences properly.

Dialogue: Yuh shudda knowed better'n tawk to 'em so long.

Correct: You should have known better than talk to them so long.

Dialogue: Yor gonna hafta do what she sez.

Correct: You are going to have to do what she says.

Dialogue: Thay should of known thay would hafta hav sum money.

Correct: They should have known they would have to have some money.

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